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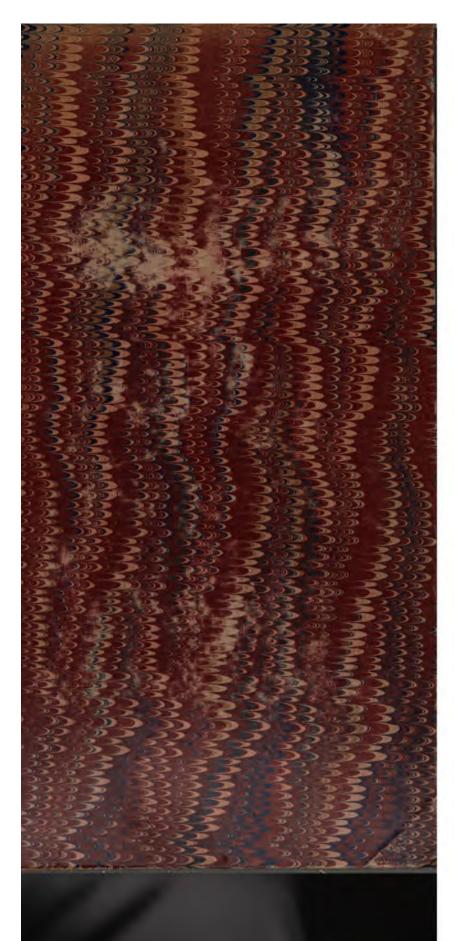
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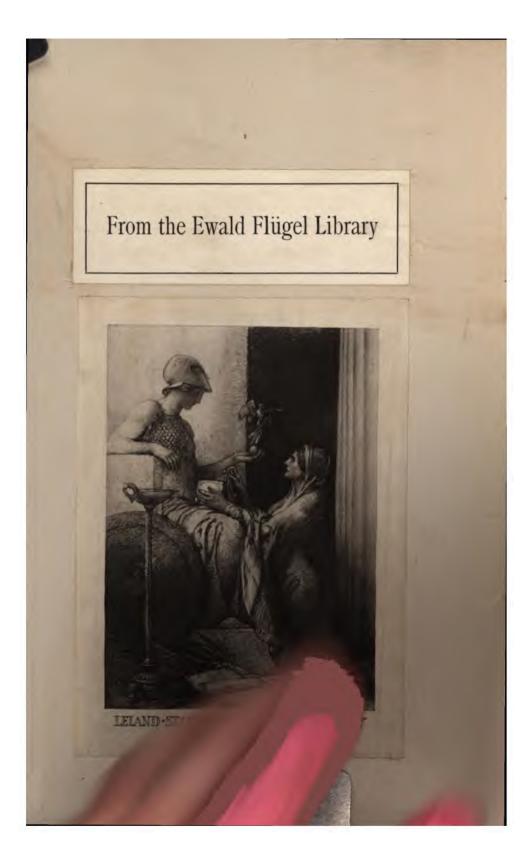
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A New Ploughman's Tale:

THOMAS HOCCLEVE'S LEGEND

Of the Mirgin and her Sleebeless Garment,

WITH A SPURIOUS LINK.

EDITED FROM MS. CLII, CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD (CHAUCER'S CANTERBURY TALES)

BY

ARTHUR BEATTY, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

PARALLELED WITH ANOTHER COPY FROM MR. ISRAEL GOLLANCE'S EDITION OF HOCCLEVE'S MINOR POEMS, PART II. (P. 21-5, E. E. T. SOC.), FROM THE ASHBURNHAM QUARTO MS. 133

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY
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almost innumerable instances of a reward being repetition of the Ave Maria. An example or two are of these stories:

Ame a Cistercian, but could learn nothing except the Maria, which he kept constantly repeating. After y grew from his tomb, having Ave Maria inscribed I, p. 654).

an, accustomed to say 150 Aves daily, was repeating went through a wood; and a robber, who lay in wait for hite doves taking roses out of his mouth and carrying heaven (p. 668).

A clerk was drowned on his way from his mistress; and he was restored to life, because his last words, found imprinted on his tongue, were "Ave Maria" (p. 612).

The incident of the Garment or Cloak being given by the Virgin to the person who repeats the *Ave Maria* is found in Mielot, No. xxvi, and runs as follows:

"Vng euesque fut, natif de France, qui fut saint et deuot a la vierge Marie. Cest euesque demoura vng soir tout seul en son eglise en prieres, en larmes et en oroisons, et veit tout soudainement les angels descendre du ciel, et puis les saints de paradis, et puis finablement la vierge Marie, et ouyt quilz demenoyent moult yoyeulx chant et grant melodie. Puis ouyt les saintes, qui demanderent a la vierge Marie, qui elle vouloit qui chantast la messe. Elle enseigna icellui euesque, dont il fut tout honteulx. Les sains vindrent a lui et le prindrent, puis le menerent a lautel et le feirent reuestir. Puis il chanta la messe bien et deuotement. Quant il eust la messe chantee, la vierge Marie lui donna pour son louyer vng moult noble vestement, quelle auoit apporte de paradis, dont leuesque moult humblement le mercia. En sa maison retourna moult joyeulx de si noble vision . . . " (Compare Ward, II, p. 622.)

In the course of his preparation for the priesthood, Hoccleve must have heard many such stories as these; and we may not be attributing too much originality to the poet if we cease to search for the particular form of the story as he tells it, and allow it to stand as his own invention, including the incident of the added sleeves. Such pious poems were somewhat in demand at the time, and we have two from John Lydgate, Hoccleve's contemporary and fellow-admirer of Chaucer, both of which turn on the assiduous

¹ JEAN MIELOT, Miracles de Nostre Dame, ed. Warner, 1885.

repetition of a prayer. These are found in Harleian MS. 2251, one of which is printed in Halliwell's Minor Poems of John Lydgate, p. 62 (Vol. II of Percy Society Publications), and in Originals and Analogues of the Canterbury Tales, Part II, pp. 286–288 (Publications of the Chaucer Society). The other one is printed in Halliwell, p. 73, and will be found reprinted from the manuscript in the Appendix to this volume. This poem has a further interest in its similarity to the wide-spread mediæval story of the grateful dead man, and how he rewards the knight who risks everything to obtain for the corpse a decent burial. It is scarcely necessary to remind our readers that Chaucer makes a "miracle" the subject of his beautiful Prioress's Tale.

- § 3. The Two Ploughman's Tales. So far as I have been able to discover, Kitchin 1 has been the only one to indicate that the Ploughman's Tale of the Christ Church MS. is not the Ploughman's Tale which has been in print since 1542, and has now been made accessible to all by Professor Skeat.2 The words of Kitchin are a mere note-"Not that ordinarily printed," and give no clue to the contents of the poem. It is a strange instance of the mutability of Fortune that she should have attributed to the honest Ploughman tales of a character so utterly different; the one "shewing by the doctrine and liues of the Romish Clergie that the Pope is Antichrist and they his ministers," and the other breathing the most unquestioning faith in the Virgin and the Church. Of the two tales the Ploughman would certainly rather lay claim to the present one as his own. Indeed the man who saddled that fierce invective on the Ploughman must have had a painfully feeble sense of dramatic fitness, or he must have been absolutely ignorant of Chaucer's good husbandman, living with all men "in pees and parfit charitee." May the publicity of print given this other tale, even at this late day, in some measure assuage his gentle spirit; for, weak as it is, it might very conceivably have been told by him-though it could hardly have been written by Chaucer.
- § 4. The Stanza-Form. This stanza-form is a favourite with Chaucer, Lydgate, and Hoccleve. Probably the success of Chaucer led the others to adopt it. Hoccleve perhaps made the most unskilful use of it, for even at his best he was never able to make it more than pedestrian, while at his worst it is very bad indeed.

loc. cit.
 Chaucerian and other Pieces, Oxford, 1897, pp. 147-190.
 Title-page to edition of The Ploughman's Tale, London, 1606.

Gower also made use of this stanza-form in some of his French Cinkante Balades, which were probably written in his later years, and so it may have been suggested by Chaucer.

The two additional stanzas at the beginning of the Prologue in the Christ Church MS. indicate an author other than Hoccleve, and so relieve him of the blame (or praise) that might attach to him as one of those who, like John Lydgate and John Lane, attempt to fit one of their own poems into the scheme of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The lines are readily seen to be made up of four feet, for the most part, though some of them can be read as five-foot lines. The form of the verse seems decisive against their having been written by Hoccleve; it rather points to some clumsy versifier who, for some reason or other, furnished the Ploughman with this pious Tale and wrote these stanzas as a Link, in imitation of some of the genuine Chaucer Tales.

¹ MACAULAY, The Works of John Gower, Vol. I, p. lxxii.

British Museum, April 23, 1902.

[leaf 228, bk.]	a The Prologe of the Ploughman.	
	[Christ Church MS. CLII.]	
	(a. 2 Stanzas by the Inserter, in 4-measure lines.)	
	(1)	
As the Pil- grims ride forth, the	As the pylgrymys fforth ded ryde, Owr host be-gan to loke a-boute,	.1
Host declares	And seyd, "ffelawys, we most prouyde,	
	Hoo that best of alle thys route	
the lot has	Kan telle hys tale, as lot comyth aboute.	5
fallen to Ploughman	Ploughman Tylyer, drawe the nere,	Ů
Tiller, and he must tell his Tale.	And telle thy tale, and we wyl here." .t. audire	7
	(2)	
The Plough- man pro-	் "Syr," he seyde, "y shalle telle, as y can,	8
mises a tale of the mother of Christ.	A tale of Crystys modyr dere,	
how she re- warded a	Mary that bare bothe god and man,	
monk who said her	How to a monk she ded a-pere,	10
psalter daily.	That euery day seyde here sautere,	12
	And heuene blysse had to hys mede:	
	Hoo seruyth owr lady, the better shalle spede.	14
	(b. Hoccleve's Prologue, in 5-measure lines.)	
	(3)	
[leaf 229]	"Who-so desyryth to gete and conquere	15
	The blysse of hevene, holsom ys a guyde	
She is the	Hym to condue, and hym to brynge there;	
best guide to him who	And so good knowe y noon for mannys syde,	
seeks the bliss of	As the rote of humblesse, and fo to pryde,—	19
Heaven,	That lady, of whos tetys virginalle	
	Sook owr redemptour, the maker of alle.	21
	(4)	
	"Be-twyxt god and man ys she meadiatrice,	22
and is a sure	for owr offences mercy to purchase:	24

[Hoccleve's Poem No. VI., 'Item de beata virgine,' from the Ashburnham Quarto MS. 133.]

Ce feust faite a linstance de T. Marleburgh.

(1)

Who so desirith to gete and conquere The blisse of heuene, needful is a guyde
The blisse of heuene, needful is a guyde
Him to condue / & for to brynge him there;
And so good knowe I noon for mannes syde,
As the roote of humblesse / & fo¹ to pryde,—
That lady / of whos tetes virginal
Sooke our Redemptour, the maker of al.
(0)

(2)

Betwixt god and man / is shee mediatrice for our offenses / mercy to purchace;

I So good a guide to Heaven know I none,

5 [1 MS: for]

7

8 as She who mediates

14	4 rich	Frenchman'	s Son	is a	Monk	at St.	Gile.	CH.	CH.	MS
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against the Fiend.	She, owr sheld ys agayns the malyce	
	Of the ffende, that owr soulys wold enbrace And cary hem vn-to that horryble place	26
	Where as peyne ay duryng ys, and turment,	
	More than may be spoken of or ment.	28
	(5)	
She is a staff of comfort	a "Now syn) that lady noble and gloryous	29
to all.	To alle man-kyndë hath so grete cheerte,	
	That in thys slypyr' lyf' and peryllous,	
	Staff of comfort & help to man) ys she,	
	Convenyent ys, that to that lady ffre	33
We should do her honour,	We doo seruycë, honour, & plesaunce;	
and hear a remembrance of her.	And to that ende, here ys a remembraunce."	35
	(c. The Tale, in 5-measure lines.)	
	& Bere be-gynnyth the Ploughmanny	05
	tale of Owre lady.	
	(1)	
A rich man	There was whilom, as that seyth the scripture,	36
in France, who honour-	In ffraunce a rychë man and a worthy,	
ed God and Holy Church,	That god & holychurchë to honoure	
	And plese, enforced hym ful bysyly;	
and especially	And vnto crystys modyr specyally,	40
the Virgin,	That noble lady, that blessyd virgyne,	
	ffor to worchype he dyde hys myght & pyne.	42
	(2)	
[leaf 229, bk.]	A Hyt shop so that thys man) had a yong sone,	43
had a son, whom he	Vn-to whyche he yaf informacioun,	
taught to repeat 50	Euery day to have in custome and wone	
times a day, the Saluta-	ffor to sey, at hys excitacioun,	
in honour of	The angelyk[e] salutacioun	47
Christ's mother.	.l. sythys, in worchype and honoure	
	Of cristys modyr, of vertu myrroure.	49
	(3)	
The son be-	By hys faderys wyl, a monk, afterward,	50
in the Abbey	In the abbey of seynt gylë made was hee;	2.0
of St. Gile, and lived a life of virtue.	Where as he in penauncë sharpe and hard	

ASHBM. MS.] A rich Frenchman's Son is a Monk at St. Gile. 15

Shee is our seur sheeld ageyn the malice		'twixt God
Of the feend / pat our soules wolde embrace		and man.
And carie hem vn-to pat horrible place	12	
wher-as eternel peyne is, and torment,		
More than may be spoke of / thoght or ment.	14	
(3)		
Now syn pat lady noble and glorious	15	Here is a
To al man kynde hath so greet cheertee,		story of her goodness.
That in this slipir lyf and perillous,		
Staf of confort and help to man is shee,		
Convenient is / þat to þis lady free	19	
we do seruice / honour, & plesance;		
And to pat ende / heer is a remembrance.	21	
and the same of th		
Explicit prologus)		
& incipit fabula		
(1)		
Ther was whilom / as pat seith the scripture,	22	Once lived in
In ffrance / a ryche man and a worthy,		France a rich and pious
That god and holy chirche to honure		man;
And plese / enforced he him bisily;		
And vn-to Crystes modir specially,	26	
pat noble lady / pat blessid virgyne,	20	
for to worshipe / he dide his might and pyne.	28	
	20	
(2)		
It shoop so / pat this man had a yong sone,	29	he had a son,
Vn-to which he yaf informacion,		whom he taught to say
Euery day to haue in custume and wone		fifty Aves daily.
ffor to seye, at his excitacion,		
The angelike salutacion	33	
.L. sythes / in worsship and honour		
Of goddes modir / of vertu the flour.	35	
(3)		
By his fadres wil / a monk, aftirward,	36	This son be-
In thabbeye of seint Gyle / maad was he;		came a monk
wher-as he in penance / sharp & hard		in the Abbey of St. Gile.
mist as its in Pontinos / small to mare		

16	Virgin	bids him treble Aves & add Paternoster.	CH. CH. MS
----	--------	---	------------

	Obseruyd wel hys Ordres dëute,	
	Lyuyng in vertuous religiouste;	54
He came	And, on a tyme, hym to pley & solace,	
home to visit his father's	Hys fadyr made hym come home to hys place.	56
house;	(4)	
and said his	Now whas ther, at our ladyes reuerence,	57
Ave Mary 50 times in	A chapel in hyt made & edefyed,	
the chapel.	In the whyche, the monke, when convenyence	
	Of tyme he had a-wayted and espyed,	
	Hys fadrys lore to fulfylle hym hyed,	61
	And .l. sythys, wyth denoute corage,	
	Seyd 'aue mary' as was hys vsage.	63
	(5)	
The Virgin	And when he had y-endyd hys prayere,	64
appeared to	Owr lady, clothyd in a garnement	-
	Sleueles, by-for[e] hym he sey appere:	
	Wher'-of the monk toke good auysement,	
	Meruaylyng hym what that this myght haue ment;	68
in a sleeveless	And seyde, "good[e] lady, by yowr leue,	
garment,	What garnement hys thys, and hath no sleue?"	70
	(6)	29
Clear po 17	She answerd and seyd[e], "thys clothyng	71
[leaf 231] and told him		"
he had given it her by his	Thow hast me yevyn, for thow every day,	
repetition of the Ave	.l. sythë 'Ave Mary' seying',	
Mary. She bade him	Honouryd hast me. Hens-forth, y the pray,	75
treble the number,	Vsë to treble that by any way.	10
and add a Paternoster to every tenth	To enery Xthe [Aue] Ioyne also	77
Ave:	A Pater-noster , do ryght evene so.	**
	(7)	
the first fifty in memory of	"The first[e] .l. wil y that seyd be,	78
the angel's Salutation;	In the memory of the Ioy and honoure	
	That I had when the aungel gret[te] me,	
	Which was ryght a wondyrful comfortoure	-
	To me when he seyd the redemptoure	82
	Of alle man-kynd y conceyve sholde:	
	Grete was my Ioy[e], when) he so me tolde.	
	(8)	
the second	"Though shalt eke sey[e]n) the secund fyfti	85
fifty in memory of	In honoure and in mynd of the gladnesse	

ASHBM.] 7	Virgin bids	him treble	the Aves &	add Paternoster.	17
-----------	-------------	------------	------------	------------------	----

Observed wel his ordres duetee,		
Lyuynge in vertuous religioustee;	40	
And on a tyme / him to playe and solace,		
His fadir made him come hoom to his place.	42	
(4)		
Now was ther, at our ladyes reuerence,	43	
A chapel in it maad and edified,	10	In the Lady
In-to which / the monke, whan convenience		Chapel he said his fifty
Of tyme he had awayted & espied,		Aves.
His fadres love / to fulfill him hied;	47	
And .L. sythes / with denout corage,		
Seide Aue Marie / as was his vsage.	49	
(5)		
And whan pat he had endid his preyeere,	50	Lo, Our Lady
Our lady clothid in a garnement	00	appeared to him there in
Sleuelees, byfore him he sy appeere:		a sleeveless robe.
wher of the monke took good auisament,		
Meruerllynge him / what pat this mighte han me	nt.	
And seide ".o. goode lady, by your leeue,	,	
What garnament is this / and hath no sleeue?'	56	
Control of the Contro	00	
(6)		
And she answerde / & seide / "this clothynge	57	"Thy fifty Aves have
Thow hast me youen / for thow every day,		given me this robe: hence-
.L. sythe Aue Marie seyynge,		forth treble thy Aves, and to every
honured hast me / hens foorth / I the pray,		tenth Ave add
Vse to treble pat / by any way,	61	a paternoster.
And to euery .xthe Aue / ioyne also		
A pater noster / do thow euene so.	63	
(7)	20	
"The ferste .L". wole I pat seid be,	64	"The first fifty in
In the memorie of the ioie and honour		memory of the Saluta-
That I had / whan the Angel grette me;		tion;
which was right a wondirful confortur	120	
To me / whan he seide, the Redemptour	68	
Of al man-kynde I receyue sholde:	20	
Greet was my ioie / whan) he so me tolde.	70	
(8)		
"Thow shalt eke seyn the seconde .Lty.	71	the second in memory of
In honur and in mynde of the gladnesse		the Nativity;

her divine motherhood;	That y had when y bare of my body	
and the third	God and man), with-owtyn) woo or duresse.	
fifty in memory of her Assump-	The iiiyrde .l.ti in thyn) hert enpresse,	89
tion.	And sey it eek whith good deuocioun,	
	In the memory of myn) assumpcioun,	91
	(9)	
	"When [that] y was crounyd quene of heven	92
	In wyche my sonë regnyth, and shal aye / "	
	Al thys was doo, that I speke of and neven),	
	As the book seyth, vpon an halydaye.	
	And then seyd owr lady, that gloryous maye,	96
She promised	"The nextë halyday wyl I resorte	
to come back on the next holy day,	To thys place, the to gladë and conforte /"	98
	(10)	
and then departed.	And ther-with-alle fro thens departed she,	99
The monk	The monk in hys deuociouns dwellyng;	
directed;	And euery day suyng, her psalter he	salter
	Seyde aftyr here doctryne & enformyng.	
[leaf 280, bk.]	And the next halyday aftyr ffolwyng,	103
and she came, according to	Owr lady, ffresh[e]ly arayd & welle,	
her promise.	To the monk cam, beyng in the chapelle,	105
	(11)	
Behold, her	And to hym seydë she, "behold[e] now	106
garment had sleeves!	Howe good clothyng, and how good apparayle,	
She gave him thanks for his	That, thys wyke, to me yevyn) hast thowe:	
good works,	Sleves to my clothyng now not faylle;	
	The thank I, and ful welle for thy trauaylle	110
	Shalt thow be qwyt, her in thys lyf present,	
	And in that other whan thow hens art went.	112
	(12)	
and promised	"Walk now and goo hom to the abbey.	113
that he should be	When thow comyst, abbot chosyn shalt thow h	oe;
made Abbot of St. Gile.	And to the covent teche thow for to sey	
She directed him to teach	My psalter, as by-fore taught have I the.	
her psalter to	The peple also thow shalt in generalte	117
and the people;	The same lesson vn-to myne honour preche,	
	And of her hurtys wil I ben her leche.	119

	(13)	
and to con- tinue thus for	₩ Vij yere lyfë shalt thow for to doo	120
seven years, after which he should be taken to	Thys charge; and, when the yerys be a-goon,	
	Thow passe shalt hens, and me come vntoo;	
herself.	And her-of dowtë havë [thow] ryght noon).	
She promi sed that he	By my psalter shal ther be many oon	124
should save many.	Saved, and had up to eternal blysse,	
	That, yef that nere, sholdyn) ther-of mysse."	126
	(14)	
She then uscended into neaven.	When she had seyd what her lyked to sey,	127
	She to heven ascendyd [up] and stye.	
He was made Abbot of St.	And sone after, abbot of that abbey	
Hile.	He maad was, as hym told[e] owr ladye.	
	The covent and the peple, denoutlye	131
He taught he people	Thys monk enformed & taught her psalter,	
er psalter,	ffor to be seyd after that by yer.	133
	(15)	
nd died at he end of the	Thoo yerys past, hys soulë was be-taught	134
even years. Ie received	To god; he heven had [de] to hys mede.	
leaven as is reward.	Who seruyth owr' lady, lesyth ryght naught;	
le speeds rell who erves Our	She sofficiently qwyteth euery dede:	
ady:	And now, her-aftyr, the bettyr to spede,	138
[leaf 231] herefore let	And in her gracë cherly for to stonde,	
s try to say er pealter,	Her psalter for to sey[e] let vs fonde. Amen.	140
hat we may tand in her race.	Here endyth the Ploughmanys tale.	

(13)

Seven years shalt thou live, and then pass hence, and come to ". Vij.e yeer lyue / shalt thow / for to do 106 This charge / & whan the yeeres been agoon, Thow passe shalt hens / & me come vn-to; me. Many shall be saved by my psalter. And of this / doute have thow right noon. By my psalter shal ther be many oon 110 Saued / and had vp to eternel blisse, pat, if pat ner[e] / sholden ther-of misse." 112

(14)

Whan shee had seid / what lykid hir to seye, 113 Shee vp to heuene ascendid up and sty. So all befell. And soone aftir, Abbot of pat Abbeye He maad was / as pat tolde him our lady. The Couent and the peple, deuoutly 117

This monke enformed / and taghte hir psalteer, ffor to be seid after pat / vije. yeer. 119

120

124

126

Who serveth our Lady, loseth right

(15)

Tho yeeres past / his soule was betaght

To god / he heuene had vn-to his meede. Who serueth our lady / leesith right naght; Shee souffissantly / qwytith euery deede: And now heer-aftir / the bettre to speede, And in hir grace / cheerly for to stonde,

Hir psalteer for to seye / let vs fonde. Explicit.

APPENDIX.

The Grateful Dead,

by John Lydgate.

(MS. Harl. 2251, fol. 77.)

	(1)	
The Scrip- tures tell us that it is	¶ REmembryd by scriptures, we fynde and rede, Holsum and holy it is, to thynke and pray	1
wholesome to remember the souls	ffor al the sowles that be past in dede Out of this wrecchid world, vnto domesday,	
in Purgatory.	Abidyng in purgatory with sorvful lay,	5
	Cryeng and callyng for mercy and pite, Vnto them In special that there friendis be.	7
	(2)	
A holy and devout man	¶There was a man, right hooly and devoute,	8
of Paris was wont to say	of parise in fraunce, that worthy cyte,	
De Profun- dis, Pater-	That daily wold sey, in his chirche-yerde aboute,	
noster, and Ave for all	ffor alle cristen sowlis, with mercy and pite,	
the Christian souls in his	De profundis, paternoster, and Ave.	12
churchyard. This he did	This prayer he vsed contynuauly,	
continually.	Til god purveyed for hym continuauly.	14
	(3)	
He was pur-	¶ It fil on a tyme, he was pursued	15
sued by his mortal ene-	Of his mortal enemyes with grete violence.	
mies; and took refuge in the	He fledde for the best, and ther malice eschewed,	
churchyard, and said the	And toke the chircheyerde for his defence,	
De Profun-	And sayde Deprofundis with entier diligence.	19
The bodies arose from	The bodyes arose out of theyr graves;	
their graves armed with	Somme appered with gleyves, and some with a	staves.
swords and staves,	(4)	
and put his	¶ So grete a multitude assemblid to fight,	22
enemies to	His enemyes gan fle, and sore were agast.	
He thanked God.	He thankyd god of his grete myght,	
He received his reward	And seyde deprofundis whan they were past.	
at last; therefore it is wholesome	His reward in heuen he had at last.	26
to have in	Therfor it is holsom for to have in memory	
the souls in Purgatory.	The soulis that ly In paynes of purgatory.	28

LIST OF WORDS.

[References are given to the lines of the Ch. Ch. MS. when the word is common to both. G. D. means the poem on page 22. Meanings are given only in cases of conceivable difficulty.]

agast, G. D. 23, terrified. at, 57, at . . . reuerence, out of respect, or reverence, to auysement, auisament, 67. betaught, betaght, 134. Cf. A.S. betäht, betrothed, from betæcan. cherly, 139, joyously? condue, 17. dede, G. D. 3, death. duresse, 88. edefyed, edified, 58, built. enformyd, enformed, 132. eschewed, G. D. 17, escaped. excitacioun, excitacion, 46. ffelawys, 3. fonde, 140, try. gleyves, G. D. 21, swords. holsom, 16, G. D. 2. Cf. Ashbm. 2. hoo, who, 4, 15. leche, 119, physician. lore, 61, teaching. neven (Ashbm. meene), 94, name. playe (verb). Ashbm. 55. plesaunce, plesance, 34, pleasure. pley, 55. See playe. psalter, sautere, 12. qwyt, qwit, 111, requited. religiouste, religioustee, 54. reuerence, 57. See at. sautere. See psalter. shop, shoop, 43, happened. slypyr, slipir, 31. suyng, 101, Ashbm. 89, following. syde, 18, part, behalf. tetys, tetes, 20. whas, was, 57. who. See hoo. wone, 45, habit. wyke, 108, week.

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Of the Second Series, the issue for 1876 is,

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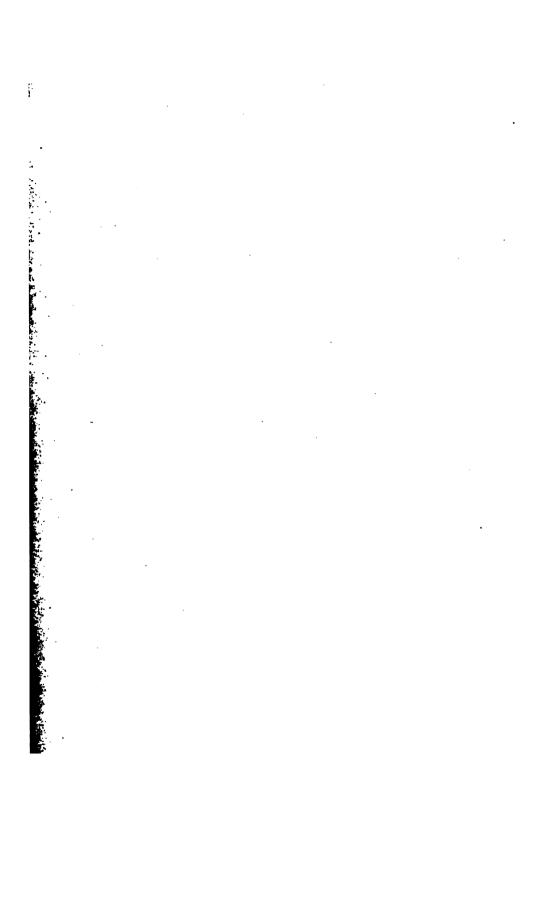
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